

representatives are provided the opportunity of joint inspection of the stocks while taking delivery from the FCI.

Free distribution of foodgrains to poor

162. SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM: Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government are finding it difficult to implement the decision of free distribution of foodgrains to the poor through Public Distribution System;
- (b) if so, what steps have been taken to identify the poor who deserve free foodgrains;
- (c) whether the flood and drought hit areas and other identified backward areas are proposed to be targeted under the scheme;
- (d) if so, what steps have been or are being taken in this regard; and
- (e) the quantity for foodgrains to be distributed free under the scheme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHRIRAM CHAUHAN): (a) to (e) Government has not taken any decision for free distribution of foodgrains to the poor through Public Distribution System. However, Government has allotted five lakh tonnes of foodgrains free of cost to seven drought affected States namely Chhattisgarh, Gujarat, Himachal Pradesh, Maharashtra, Madhya Pradesh, Orissa and Rajasthan for organising various employment generation programmes in drought affected areas.